



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office  
District of North Dakota

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## **Fargo Man Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison on Child Pornography Charges**

**FARGO** - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on June 4, 2010, **Robert Scheiring** of Fargo, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on two charges of child pornography.

Scheiring, 43, pleaded guilty on November 2, 2009, to distribution of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors and possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Scheiring was a member of several password-protected bulletin boards which were dedicated to the distribution of child pornography. Scheiring was promoted to a "trusted member" on one such bulletin board, which provided him greater access to new child pornographic material. Based upon this evidence, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed a search warrant at Scheiring's office at Blue Cross Blue Shield headquarters in Fargo, ND, and his residence, also in Fargo. As a result of the search of his office, a laptop computer and thumb drive were seized. A computer and external hard drive were also seized from Scheiring's home.

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An analysis of Scheiring's electronic media revealed roughly 600,000 image files and 2,400 video files of children depicted in sexually explicit activity. Thousands of these images depicted children engaged in hard-core sexual activity and other violent conduct.

Scheiring's crimes occurred from 2008 and continued through May of 2009.

Judge Erickson sentenced Scheiring to 14 years' imprisonment to be followed by a lifetime of supervised release. Scheiring was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. A restitution hearing will be held on July 29, 2010.

The case was investigated by the U. S. Postal Inspection Service and U S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This case was brought as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

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